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REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT Border Troop Rear Services
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PLACE ACQUIRED

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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NO EVALUATION

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SOVIET ARMY SUPPLY AND TRANSPORTATION

A. SUPPLY

1. Procurement of Soviet Military Supplies

50X1 [redacted] logistics for Ministry
 50X1 of Interior (MVD - Ministerstvo Vnutrennykh Del) Border Guard
 50X1 Troops. [redacted]

2. Rear Services and Supply Procedures

50X1 [redacted] no knowledge of up-to-date organization, func-
 tions and operations of Rear Services.

3. Medical Service and Evacuation

50X1 a. student [redacted]

50X1 [redacted] The lectures
 50X1 were on VD, other contagious diseases and personal hygiene.

50X1 b. [redacted]

50X1 [redacted] cursory medical examination. This con-
 sisted of a general physical exam and a check of the eyes,
 throat, nose, height, and weight. Neither X-rays nor a Wasser-
 man test were taken.

50X1 [redacted] given one or two immunization
 shots annually and a small pox vaccine once every two or three
 years. The immunization injections were a combination against
 tetanus, typhus, and typhoid; they were administered in either
 the buttocks or the back shoulder muscle. The other shot was
 against unidentified skin diseases; it was given in the right
 or left arm.

50X1 d. The 68th Det. had a Med. Sec. headed by the chief
 medical officer, a lieutenant colonel. [redacted] He had
 a medical station, called Meditsinskiy Punkt, that had up to
 100 beds. His staff included five male physicians (two majors
 and three captains), three female medical assistants (lieuten-
 ants) and three or four male medical NCOs.

50X1 The detachment also had a Veterinary Sec. headed
 by another lieutenant colonel. [redacted] His assistants
 were one veterinary (major) and one or two male NCOs.

Each battalion of the 68th Det. had a medical
 section consisting of one medical assistant (feldsher). The

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feldsher was in charge of a small dispensary with five to 10 beds. Each battalion also had a veterinary section consisting of one veterinary NCO.

The 2d Bn, 68th Det, was able to send ill personnel to the Army Hospital in KUSHKA (3516N-6224E), where it was stationed. The hospital was subordinate to the 347th Rifle Div. and occupied a 1-story stone building. Source could not recall its exact dimensions, capacity or number of medics. He remembered that it had about 20 male and female doctors in ranks from lieutenant colonel down to lieutenant and an unknown number of male and female feldshers in grades of captain to lieutenant. The hospital had X-ray, therapeutic and heat lamp equipment.

The hospital had separate wards for officers and EM. While there, juice was extracted from stomach via a rubber hose and then checked. glucose injections and was sent to the sanatorium in KEMERI (5656N-2329E), near RIGA (5659N-2409E), Latvian SSR,

The sanatorium was a large 4-story building. Built before World War II, it was the largest and most modern sanatorium in Latvia and treated patients from all over Europe before World War II. In 1950, it accepted civilians, army troops, and MVD and Ministry of State Security (MGB - Ministerstvo Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti) personnel. its capacity was 400 to 500 beds. The sanatorium was staffed by a large number of male and female physicians who wore civilian clothes and were civilians.

civilian sanatorium in MACHINZA-URI, near BATUMI (4138N-4138E) on the Black Sea

The sanatorium had 150 to 200 beds and was staffed by male and female civilian doctors.

Female doctors and feldshers were in army or MVD hospitals on division level or higher. They performed the same duties as the male doctors or feldshers. Feldshers held ranks from lieutenant to captain.

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g. Male and female doctors were physicians who had 10 years of schooling and then were graduated from either a military or civilian (five-year) medical academy. Depending upon their efficiency and length of service, they had grades of junior lieutenant to general. Most of the male doctors were captains, majors or lieutenant colonels, while the majority of females had ranks of captain and major.

The male and female medical assistants finished at least seven years of schooling and had a three-or four-year medical technical training course (institute). They held ranks of junior lieutenant to captain, with the majority being lieutenants and senior lieutenants.

h. During World War II, the following evacuation procedures were followed.

One or two men in each platoon were designated as first aid men. When a man was wounded, they applied first aid. Then, depending upon the nature of the wound, the injured man either walked to the battalion rear area (400 m. to two kilometers away) or was carried there by the first aid men. Any method was used for carrying the wounded - litters, blankets, overcoats, tent halves and branches tied together with belts and covered with a coat.

In the battalion medical station, one feldsher and three to five medical NCOs treated the wounded. Light cases were left at this station for rest and recovery; they were to be returned to duty as soon as possible. Barns, requisitioned farm houses or self-made earth and timber bunkers or tents housed light cases until they were ready to leave.

The battalion medical station had an unknown number of ambulances. When these were unavailable, the station could press into service any handy carts, trucks and sedans to move more serious cases to the regimental medical station. This station was usually four to five kilometers to the rear of the front lines. It had mobile equipment, two to three doctors, three to five feldshers and 10 to 20 medical NCOs who expertly treated the wounded. Whenever recovery was expected within 15 days, the cases were kept at the regimental station, in requisitioned farm buildings, bunkers or tents until recovery.

Cases requiring medical treatment of more than 15 days were sent by ambulance, cart, truck or sedan to the division medical station, about 10km. behind the front lines. There a regular hospital was put up; it had operating tables and all pertinent medical equipment. Number of doctors, feldshers and medical NCOs stationed there were unknown to source. Wounded expected to recover within two or three months were treated there.

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Train, plane, truck and ambulance evacuated cases requiring more than three months' attention to army hospitals far behind the front lines or to hospitals in the USSR.

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j. During World War II, medical personnel were to see to it that troops had potable drinking water. Actually, no such water discipline existed. Troops received drinking water from the kitchen; if the kitchen had no water, they drank from lakes and streams. [] received nor heard of any salt or purifying tablets used during the war.

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5. Unit Supply and Maintenance of Individual Equipment

a. Inspections of Equipment

Inspections of equipment and weapons were the exception rather than the rule on the border. Company COs were supposed to inspect the men, weapons and equipment daily, while the battalion CO was to make such an inspection monthly. Inspection committees from the Main Administration of Border Troops (GUPV - Glavnoye Upravleniye Pogranichnykh Voysk), MOSCOW, and from district headquarters checked uniforms, neatness of troops, food, equipment and quartermaster items in April-May and in November-December.

When not in use for guard duty, weapons were stored in racks in the gun room. This was either a separate room behind the CO's room or depending upon space available, in the same room where EM slept. Weapon repairs, which occurred very rarely, were performed by artificers in the detachment or district. The battalion had no repair facilities except one or two shoemakers and a tailor. The detachment, meanwhile, had two or three shoemakers and two or three tailors.

Food was inspected about once a week by the battalion feldsher and once a month by the battalion CO.

b. Units of Fire

The units of fire [] were:

TT pistol - 8 rounds

Carbine or rifle - 60 rounds

PPSh - 140 rounds

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LMG - 282 to 294 rounds (depending upon use of
47- or 49-round magazines)

HMG - 500 rounds

Each Border Guard Troops EM had two hand grenades.

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c. Food Supply

Most Border Guard Troops officers ate at home
with their families.

Typical EM meals consisted of:

Breakfast

Tea with sugar
Gruel (either
pearl barley
or wheat)
Bread, 250 gr.

Dinner

Borsht
Meat, 120 gr.
Potato puree
Tea with sugar
Bread, 300 gr.

Supper

Soup
Macaroni, vegetables,
pickled vegetables or
meat broth
Tea with sugar
Bread, 250 gr.

There was no special winter or holiday ration.
Nine hundred grams of bread were issued daily in winter, 800
in summer. At no time were fruits, milk, eggs, cheese, fruit
juices, coffee, beer, or alcoholic drinks served.

While the food norm represented the scheduled
rations, source said that the men on the Afghanistan-USSR
border supplemented their fare with plenty of meat. The
hilly terrain upon which the 68th Det was stationed was full
of boar, wild sheep, and wild goats. Since this was a restrict-
ed area for civilians, officers and EM of the 347th Rifle Div
and of the 68th Det went on hunts frequently. The meat ob-
tained on the hunting expeditions went to the kitchen and was
for all men, officers (who took meat cuts home) and EM alike.

When asked why the government allowed troops to
hunt instead of sending a meat trust to slay the animals and
to sell the meat, [redacted] no one, not even the political
officers, reported hunting trips. [redacted] they all
enjoyed the hunts, which was one of few relaxations from the
monotonous border service, and [redacted] discontinuance
of them would also cut off the additional rations of meat.

Ammunition for hunting was obtained by falsifying
target practice entries. Whereas the record stated that 100
EM fired three rounds each, only 40 or 50 EM actually fired,
thus leaving some ammunition for hunting purposes.

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d. Clothing Issue (Officer and EM - Border Guard Troops only)

(1) Dress - Winter and Summer

(a) Officer

<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	Blouse	Wool	Khaki	Issued for two years
1 pr.	Breeches	Wool	Dark blue	Same as above

The above items correspond to the uniforms shown as item 2, figure 140 with the exception of number of buttons on blouses; EMV blouses had six buttons whereas army blouses had five.

The full dress officer uniform consisted of the above items plus: service coat in winter, service boots, service visored cap (furazhka), belt (not Sam Browne; described in subpar (4), below) and tan leather gloves which were optional and purchased by the individual.

(b) EM

<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	Blouse (Mundir)	Wool-cotton	Khaki	Issued for three years
1 pr.	Breeches	Wool-cotton	Dark blue	Same as above

The above items correspond to those on page 3 of the pamphlet, "The Soviet Army Uniforms and Insignia," published Aug 50 by the British War Office.

The EM blouse and breeches were of a more inferior material than those of the officers. To complement the dress uniform, EM wore a service, visored cap, service boots, service blouse and belt. A service overcoat, described in subpar (2) (d), below, was also worn in the winter. No gloves were issued or worn.

(2) Service

(a) Officer - Winter

These items corresponded to those mentioned in "Soviet Army Uniforms and Insignia"

<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	Blouse	Wool	Khaki	See explanatory paragraph below

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<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1 pr.	Breeches	Wool	Dark blue	See explanatory paragraph below
1	Overcoat	Wool	Brown-gray	Issued for two years
1	Garrison cap	Wool	Green - with rasp- berry pip- ing and dark blue band	Issued for two years
1	Cap	Flannel and imitation wool	Gray	Issued for three or five years
1 pr.	Boots	Leather	Black	Issued for eight months

Officers received a gratis issue of khaki-colored wool every three years. They could have the material cut into a blouse or tunic. An officer would usually alternate between these two items with each issue. Every two years, officers received, without cost, a quantity of blue wool for breeches and khaki cloth for an overcoat. They also received a cash allowance to pay for the cost of accessories and tailoring.

For their boots, officers got leather for soles, inside linings and tops every eight months. They did not receive the boot part; that had to be salvaged from old boots and sewn to the leather portions. Officers were not issued low quarters. They bought them and wore them with long blue trousers at social functions.

(b) Officer - Summer

All items were made of khaki-colored cotton and were issued for one year.

<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Item</u>
1	Tunic (gimnastyerka)
1 pr.	Breeches
1	Cap, field (overseas)

(c) EM - Winter and Summer

All items were made of khaki-colored cotton and were issued for one year. Reference is made to "Soviet Army Uniforms and Insignia" pamphlet.

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<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Item</u>
1	Tunic
1 pr.	Breeches
1	Cap, field (overseas)

During their first year in service, EM received only one blouse-tunic set. They were issued an additional set the next year and were permitted to retain the original one. The new set was worn for dress and service occasions, while the old one was worn on fatigue details. During the third year, EM received one more set, using the second one for fatigue wear. The first set was usually un-serviceable by that time.

(d) EM - Winter (October to April)

Reference is made to "Soviet Army Uniforms and Insignia" pamphlet.

<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	Overcoat	Wool	Brown-gray	Issued for entire period of service.
1	Cap	Flannel and imitation fur	Gray	Issued for length of service.
1	Cap, garrison	Wool	Green - with raspberry-red piping and dark blue band	Issued for length of service.
1 pr.	Boots	Leather or imitation leather	Black	Issued for eight months.

(3) Combat and Field

Border Guard Troops were not issued combat, field or fatigue clothing.

(4) Accessories

Officers and EM were issued the following dress, service and field wear.

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<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
2 pr.	Footwraps (winter)	Flannel	White	Issued for one year
2 pr.	Footwraps (summer)	Linen	White	Same as above
2	Undershirts (winter)	Flannel	White	Same as above
2	Undershirts (summer)	Cotton	White	Same as above
2 pr.	Drawers, long (winter)	Flannel	White	Same as above
2 pr.	Drawers (summer)	Cotton	White	Same as above
1	Belt, blouse	Leather	Tan	Issued for length of service. Same as item on page 7, "Soviet Army Uniforms and Insignia."
1	Belt, trouser	Web or canvas	Tan	Issued for one year

In regard to footwraps and underwear, the one-year-issue period for EM was for record purposes only. EM received a clean set of underwear and footwraps after turning in their dirty sets after their Saturday shower. Officers received new sets of both items each year.

(5) Organizational Equipment

EM only were issued the following items.

<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
4	Sheets	Linen	White	-
2	Pillow cases	Linen	White	
1	Mattress	Linen	Striped	Filled with straw
1	Mattress cover	Linen	White	-
1	Pillow	Linen	Striped	Filled with straw
1	Blanket	Flannel	White, green or blue	-

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<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
4	Handkerchiefs	Linen	White	-
2	Towels, face	Linen	White	-
Unk.	Face and laundry soap			
2	Ammunition pouches	Leather	Tan	Each held 15 rounds
1	Grenade pouch	Leather	Tan	Held two grenades
1 set	Mess gear	Aluminum	Gray	-
1	Canteen	Glass		
1	Canteen cover	Unk.	Khaki	
1	Gas mask	Rubber	-	Shlem-1, also issued to officers

Officers did not use and were not issued ammunition and grenade pouches, mess gear, canteen and canteen cover. Most Border Guard Troops officers were married and therefore had to purchase their own bedding and linen. Bachelor officers received these items in their hotel.

EM received a PPSH or a carbine, while officers got TT pistols. Officers also were issued tan leather pistol holders and tan leather map cases.

EM were issued the following athletic equipment.

<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	Gym shirt	Fabric with lustrous surface	Gray	Short sleeves
1	Gym shorts	Same as above	Varied	
1 pr.	Gym shoes	Canvas - rubber	Gray	

EM on guard or patrol in wet, swampy terrain were given rubber boots and raincoats or tent halves to be used as raincoats.

(6) Special Uniforms

(a) Tropical - Desert (Officer and EM)

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<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	Hat	Straw	Sand	Similar to Panama hat -- flat on top with air holes on sides. A red star cockade was pinned in front.
1	Blouse	Linen	Sand	Similar to regular duty blouse, but with wide, loose cuffs and air holes under armpits.
1	Breeches	Linen	Sand	Similar to regular duty breeches.

Accessories used in desert and tropical areas were the same as those used in temperate climates, i.e., those listed in subpar (5) above. Officers frequently exchanged worn-out hats, blouses and breeches for new ones originally intended for EM. Officers kept this issue; EM had to turn it in upon demobilization or transfer.

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(b) Arctic(Officer and EM)

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<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>
1	Fur coat (shuba)	Sheepskin (fur-lined)	Beige
1 pr.	Boots (valenki)	Felt	Gray

These two items were supplementary issue to the regular uniforms. The accessories were the same as for the regular uniform. Upon transfer, EM had to turn in their fur coats and felt boots. Officers were allowed to keep these items. It was a common practice for officers to exchange worn fur coats and boots for new ones intended for new EM coming into units.

also issued:

In addition to the above, EM only were

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<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>
1	Quilted uniform	Wool, cotton-padded	Brown

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<u>Quan.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1	Jacket (Bushlat)	Wool, cotton- padded	Light green	Mackinaw-type
1 pr	Mittens	Wool	Green	-

(7) Women's Uniforms

MVD women officers and EW were issued khaki cloth and had their uniforms tailor-made. They could wear either dresses or blouses and skirts

Both blouses and skirts were khaki-colored.

(8) Changes, Sizes, Shortages and Replacement

no shortages existed within the MVD. The boots issued seldom lasted eight months, and MVD EM on patrol duty wore them out in four to six months.

MVD detachment maintained an "exchange fund" of five to 10 uniforms and 10 to 15 pairs of boots per company. EM whose clothing or boots were either unserviceable or undergoing repair were loaned items from the fund.

If an item was lost, a report of survey was made. The individual involved was either given a replacement without cost or had the cost of the replaced item deducted from his pay.

(9) Wearing of Uniform by Civilians

Upon discharge, officers were allowed to keep their complete issue. EM were allowed to retain one overseas cap, one fur cap (if issued), an overcoat, boots, tunic, breeches, belts, underwear and mess gear. If an EM had an overcoat which he had used very little, it had to be turned in for a worn one. An EM received a serviceable pair of boots upon discharge if his own were unserviceable.

Demobilized EM frequently wore their old uniforms, which was permitted by the government. They could not, however, wear an insignia or decoration.

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(10) Change from Summer to Winter Uniforms

There was no specific time for the changing of uniforms. From October-November to April, troops could wear their overcoats and winter underwear. EM had the same uniform for winter and summer. Officers had leeway in wearing winter and summer uniforms.

e. Insignia and Shoulderboards

Ranks were the same as in the army. With each first issue, officers and EM received a pair of shoulderboards. Officers also got a set of collar flashes. [redacted] of- ficers bought their own sets afterwards [redacted]

(1) Shoulderboards (Officer)

All were gold in color.

<u>Branch</u>	<u>Stripes</u>	<u>Piping</u>
Border Guards	Light green	Light green
Interior Troops	Dark blue	Dark blue
Convoy Troops	Dark blue	Dark blue
Operational Troops	Dark blue	Dark blue
Special Guard Troops	Dark blue	Dark blue
Railroad Troops	Dark blue or black	Dark blue or black

Medical, QM, veterinary and transportation officers in Border Guard units wore narrow, silver shoulderboards with the color of their respective branches. If they were in Interior, Convoy, Special Guard, Operational or Railroad Troops units, they wore narrow, silver shoulderboards with dark blue piping.

(2) Shoulderboards (EM)

Border Guard Troops had green shoulderboards with raspberry-red piping. Interior, Convoy, Operational, Special Guard and Railroad Troops wore crimson shoulderboards and dark blue piping.

(3) Collar Flashes (Officer)

Border Guard Troops officer blouses had green flashes with gold bar piping, while Interior, Convoy, Operational, Special Guard and Railroad Troops officer blouses had blue flashes with gold bar piping.

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Overcoats worn by Border Guard Troops officers had green flashes with raspberry-red piping.

f. PX Information

As a rule, Border Guard Troops were far away from towns and therefore had no PX stores. There was an army PX subordinate to the 347th Rifle Div in KUSHKA

6. General Supply Information

the Soviet Army supply system functioned quite well in World War II, despite chaotic retreats and shortages.

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